

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-07 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 IO-10

MC-02 EA-10 ERDA-07 NRC-07 INT-05 OES-05 CIEP-02

FEA-01 /143 W

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R 221230Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8276

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 5416

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MPOL IN PK SU

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY DEFENSE MINISTER IN BUDGET DEBATE

SUMMARY: DEFENSE MINISTER SWARAN SINGH CONCLUDED THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON HIS BUDGET APRIL 21. HE CITED PAKISTANI ARMS PURCHASING EFFORTS AND ITS STATEMENTS ON KASHMIR, ON SIKKIM AND ON INDIA'S NUCLEAR EXPLOSION AS A REASON FOR VIGILANCE. CHINESE TROOP DEPLOYMENTS IN TIBET, SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN AND FOR DISSIDENTS IN EASTERN INDIA ALSO COMPEL INDIAN VIGILANCE. SWARAN SINGH DID NOT MENTION DIEGO GARCIA OR IDENTIFY A THREAT FROM THE SEA. HE DENIED ALLEGATIONS THAT INDIA WOULD OFFER THE SOVIETS A BASE OR THAT THE SOVIETS INSISTED IN RETURN FOR ARMS SUPPLIES THAT THEY PROVIDE MILITARY ADVISERS AND THAT INDIA JOIN THEIR ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM.  
END SUMMARY.

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1. PAKISTAN: SWARAN SINGH SAID THAT THE SIMLA AGREEMENT, WITH ITS PROVISION FOR RESOLUTION OF ALL DIFFERENCES BY PEACEFUL MEANS, "WOULD BE THE BEST GUARANTEE OF SECURITY FOR PAKISTAN." PAKISTAN, HOWEVER, "HAS BEEN WOBBLING EITHER IN THE MATTER OF ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OR ON PRECISE POINTS MENTIONED IN THE SIMLA AGREEMENT." PAKISTAN HAS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM INDIAN STRENGTH, BUT INDIA WILL MEET THE SITUATION IN A "BEFITTING MANNER" IF PAKISTAN "IMAGINES THAT THEY CAN BROWBEAT INDIA," OR IF PAKISTAN, "ON THE INSTIGATION OF SOME OUTSIDE FORCES OR IN A MOOD OF ARROGANCE DERIVED FROM ITS ACQUISITION OF ARMS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES," UNDERTAKES AGGRESSION AGAINST INDIA. AS SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF NEGATIVE ASPECTS IN THE ATTITUDE OF PAKISTAN," SWARAN SINGH NOTED PAKISTANI COMMENTARY ON INDIA'S AGREEMENT WITH SHEIKH ABDULLAH OVER KASHMIR, ON SIKKIM AND ON INDIA'S NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. HE ALSO CITED PAKISTANI "ACQUISITION OF ARMS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES -- CHINA, FRANCE, ETC.--- AND THE ALL OUT EFFORTS TO MOBILIZE FUNDS FROM THE OIL-RICH GULF AREAS IN ORDER TO ENABLE PAKISTAN TO PURCHASE MORE ARMS AND LAST OF ALL, THE DESPERATE EFFORTS THAT THEY MADE TO GET THE US EMBARGO ON THE SUPPLY OF ARMS LIFTED AND THE UNFORTUNATE RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. . ."

HE ADDED THAT INDIA HAD AVOIDED COMMENTING ON PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS, BUT THE WAY THESE MATTERS ARE HANDLED AND THE WAY IN WHICH THE PROGRESSIVE FORCES ARE SUPPRESSED ... ALL THESE SHOW A TENDENCY TOWARDS AUTHORITARIANISM AND THEREFORE, THIS IS ALSO A FACTOR WHICH WE CANNOT IGNORE FROM A SECURITY POINT OF VIEW."

2. CHINA: SWARAN SINGH SAID (A) CHINESE TROOPS ON INDIA'S NORTHERN BORDERS HAD AT NO POINT BEEN REDUCED BELOW 100,000; (B) CHINA CONTINUED TO SUPPORT "UNLAWFUL ELEMENTS" IN EASTERN INDIA - AMONG THE NAGAS AND MIZOS - BOTH POLITICALLY AND ALSO BY "RECEIVING THEM, GIVING THEM TRAINING AND ALSO SUPPLYING ARMS TO THEM"; AND (C) CHINA CONTINUED TO SUPPLY ARMS TO PAKISTAN "IN FAIRLY LARGE QUANTITIES."

3. SEA FRONTIER: ALTHOUGH SEVERAL SPEAKERS HAD TALKED ABOUT THE ALLEGED THREAT FROM THE SEA -- AND ONE SPECIFICALLY ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF USING THIS AS UNCLASSIFIED

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AN ELECTION GIMMICK-- SWARAN SINGH SAID ONLY, "WE HAVE ALSO A PROBLEM ON OUR COASTS AND WE HAVE VITAL INTERESTS TO PROTECT: OUR INNOCENT SHIPPING, OUR TRADE, SUPPLY OF OIL AND ABOVE ALL, THE RESULTS FLOWING FROM OUR SEARCH FOR OIL, PARTICULARLY IN OFF-SHORE OIL."

4. DEFENSE BUDGET: SWARAN SINGH STRESSED THAT 63 PERCENT OF THE BUDGET IS SPENT ON ITEMS SUCH AS PAY, PENSIONS,

RATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF CIVIL WORKS; 27 PERCENT ON ORDINANCE STORES, BOTH CONSUMABLES AND MAJOR ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT, AND 10 PERCENT ON MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

THERE HAD BEEN AN INCREASE IN MILITARY PAY AND ALSO INCREASES IN COST OF OTHER ITEMS SUCH AS RATIONS, CLOTHING, ETC. HE SAID HE MENTIONED THESE POINTS BECAUSE OF PAKISTANI PROPAGANDA THAT INDIA HAD INCREASED DEFENSE EXPENDITURE TO AN UNREASONABLY HIGH LEVEL.

5. SOVIET UNION: "THE SOVIET UNION HAS NEVER ASKED US FOR ANY BASE, NAVAL OR ANY OTHER....INDIA'S POLICY IN THIS RESPECT IS QUITE CATEGORIC AND CLEAR ...WE WILL NEVER GIVE A BASE TO ANY COUNTRY WHATSOEVER." SWARAN SINGH ALSO REPLIED WITH A CATEGORIC "NO" TO THE ALLEGATION THAT THE SOVIETS HAD OFFERED TO SUPPLY EQUIPMENT IN RETURN FOR INDIA JOINING THEIR COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM. WHEN THE MEMBER WHO HAD RAISED THIS PRESSED ON WHETHER INDIA WOULD JOIN THE SOVIET ASIAN COLLECTIVE PLAN, SWARAN SINGH DODGED BY SAYING "THERE IS NO PLAN." HE WENT ON TO LABEL AS "FANTASTIC AND UNFOUNDED" AN ACCUSATION THAT INDIA WOULD USE ITS GOOD OFFICES TO HELP THE SOVIETS GET A BASE IN THE MALDIVES. HE ALSO DENIED THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE 60,000 INSTRUCTORS IN INDIA. WHILE NOT PROVIDING ANY NUMBERS, HE ADMITTED THAT "SEVERAL SOVIET EXPERTS" HAD HELPED IN ESTABLISHING STEEL PLANTS, IN OIL DRILLING AND IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MIG FACTORIES IN KORAPUT, HYDERABAD AND NASIK. BUT "THEY HAVE NEVER TRIED TO FORCE ANY EXPERT ON US." INDIA HAS ENOUGH EXPERTISE OF ITS OWN. ONLY ON ITEMS OF "AN INTRICATE CHARACTER" DOES INDIA SEND PERSONS ABROAD-- TO THE SOVIET UNION, BRITAIN, FRANCE AND BELGIUM -- OR ASK THEIR EXPERTS TO VISIT INDIA, HE SAID.

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6. J.P.'S APPEAL TO THE MILITARY: SWARAN SINGH LABELED AS "HIGHLY DANGEROUS" THE CALL BY J.P. NARAYAN TO THE MILITARY AND POLICE TO DISOBEY ORDERS IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. "THERE WILL BE A DISASTER IF SUCH DISCIPLINED FORCES, BEFORE THEY OBEY THE ORDERS, ARE TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES AS TO WHETHER THE ORDERS ARE CONSTITUTIONAL OR LEGAL....THERE WILL BE NOTHING BUT CHAOS," HE SAID.SAXBE

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